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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION V
POLLUTION REPORT

I.3
4/18/95

DATE APRIL 18, 1995

FROM PETE GURIA, OSC, RESPONSE SECTION 2, CHICAGO, IL

TO:

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L. ROBERTSON, CITY OF CHICAGO, DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT (VIA-FAX)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (VIA-FAX)
CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT (VIA-FAX)

SUBJECT: HARRISON SHEET STEEL SITE, REMOVAL ACTION, CHICAGO, IL

POLREP NO.: 1 DELIVERY ORDER NO.: 5001-05-367
SITE ID NO.: OP NPL STATUS: NON-NPL
CERCLIS ID No: 0001048834 LATITUDE: 41°52'09.3"
RESPONSE AUTHORITY: CERCLA LONGITUDE: 87°44'30.4"
START DATE: 2/22/95 COMPLETION DATE:

I. SITUATION:

- A. The site is located at 4718 W. 5th Ave., Chicago, Cook County, IL, and is situated in a light industrial/residential area. The site is bordered to the north and west by residential homes, to the south by 5th Ave. and a railroad line, and to the east by a cabinet manufacturer and Kilpatrick Street. Residential homes bordering the site are within 50' to the north and west. The surrounding neighborhood is comprised of low income housing, and prostitution, vandalism, and crime are commonplace.
- B. No background information is available from either the Illinois EPA (IEPA), nor the City of Chicago's Dept. of the Environment (CDOE). Based on a minimal amount of file material found inside the building, the facility appears to have formerly manufactured steel desk and file cabinets.
- C. On February 17, 1995, The U.S. EPA, Emergency and Enforcement Response Branch (EERB) conducted a site assessment to evaluate threats posed to human health and the environment. Approximately 1,000 55-gallon drums and hundreds of small containers were observed throughout the facility. Many were severely deteriorated and had released their contents. One open drum was labeled "96% Sodium Cyanide". It appeared that the buildings had also been used as a dumping ground for municipal and industrial wastes.
- D. Samples collected during the site assessment revealed elevated levels of chromium (8,600

ppm) and TCLP lead ranging from 5 to 85 ppm. One sample had a flashpoint of 140°F, indicating the characteristic of ignitability under RCRA. Access to the site was not restricted and evidence of vandalism was observed throughout the buildings. The presence of drums and containers of lead, chromium, and flammable materials posed threats to human health and the environment through direct contact, ingestion, inhalation, or fire and explosion.

- E. Armed security service, SDI, on-site 24 hrs/day conducting hourly patrol of site perimeter. Weather has varied from snow to rain with temperatures reaching as high as 70°F. Utilizing command post previously established for the David Chemical site, which is located approximately 200' to the east. Phone No: 312/626-5521; fax: 312/626-5205.

2. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- A. On February 21, 1995, the Chief of the EERB granted authority to expend up to \$50,000 to initiate emergency site stabilization and security measures. Between February 23 and March 3, a fencing subcontractor, GF Structures, placed chain link fencing with barbed wire across doorways and other large points of entry, and all windows and other openings were boarded up by Apple Glass and Board-Up.
- B. Between March 6-27, ERCS response manager, foreman, and one technician conducted preplanning activities to prepare for full mobilization. Bid requests to vendors for installation of electrical, plumbing, and heavy equipment needs were completed. Preparation of the transition zone and drum staging area were also completed. Shipped two 30 yd³ rolloff boxes of non-hazardous trash and debris on 3/24, and 4/4.
- C. Action Memorandum signed by Regional Administrator 3/24, authorizing the expenditure of up to \$2.4 million for removal activities. ERCS crew fully mobilized 4/3, to begin clean-up actions.
- D. Installation of temporary electrical service began on 3/15, and was completed 4/3. Explosion proof lighting placed in Rm#5-drum staging area, Rm#2-where hazard categorization of samples is to be performed, and Rm#1-transition zone/decon support area. Electrical service also provided to the command post. Temporary water service supplied to transition zone/decon support area 4/4. Completed preparation of drum staging room, Rm#5, with placement of concrete berm across doorway 4/6.
- E. Began staging drums to Rm#5 4/5. Approximately 400 staged as of 4/17. Mobilized track loader to begin clearing debris and waste piles for drum access in Rm#6 of the building. Crew removing some drums from the waste piles by hand.
- F. Structural engineer on-site 4/7, to inspect buildings for structural instability. The south wall of Rm#6, and doorways between Rooms 5, 6&7 were identified by the engineer as unstable. The engineer then drew up plans for installing steel supports to facilitate enlarging of the existing doorways to allow bobcat access.
- G. Manlift mobilized 4/7, and trackhoe mobilized 4/11, to begin removal of twisted, fire damaged, overhead obstructions in Rm#6. Began cutting down steel beams and charred wood flooring 4/12. Shipped approximately 12.35 tons of scrap steel beams by 4/18, to local scrap yard for recycling.
- H. Began drum sampling 4/13, total of 100 drums sampled to date. Preliminary information indicates paint solids, sludge, and possibly foundry sand or baghouse dust. Drum logs are being completed for each drum noting any shipping or manufacturer information. At least one drum of a flammable paint has been identified as the type that was disposed of at the

David Chemical site. TAT chemist mobilized 4/17, to begin hazard categorization analysis.

3. PLANS:

- A. Continue removing overhead obstructions in Rm#6 to access drums below. Unsafe for crew to work below until all overhead fire damaged structure is removed. Once all drums are removed from Rm#6, remaining steel to be cut with acetylene torches into manageable pieces, deconned, and shipped for recycling.
- B. All non-impacted wood and brick debris from Rm#6 to be segregated and shipped as non-hazardous debris. Plan to move power screen to sort debris from waste piles. Piles to be screened of debris for sampling and characterization. All visually non-impacted debris to be segregated for non-haz disposal.
- C. Begin staging drums and waste piles from Rm#7 once Rm#6 has been cleared of debris. Space is at a premium, and once all non-haz debris is removed, additional waste can be screened, segregated, sampled, and characterized. Doorway between rooms 6&7 may require enlarging to facilitate bobcat access to drums and piles.
- D. Continue drum sampling and hazard categorization to determine waste groups. Off-site laboratory to be selected for composite sample analysis for waste stream determination and disposal.

4. KEY ISSUES:

- A. Many of the drums and waste piles observed inside the buildings on-site appear to be a result of "fly dumping". Extra effort will be taken to record product and/or shipping information from drums and containers for enforcement purposes.
- B. The buddy system will be utilized when working around the perimeter of the site to avoid problems with the criminal element in the area. Prostitution is rampant and a mugging was witnessed by the ERCS RM. RES personnel vehicles are being parked inside the decon support area of the building, and SDI security is monitoring the perimeter on an hourly basis. To date, no serious problems to report.

5 COSTS

- A. Case open;
- B. Costs through 04/14/95;

	<u>BUDGETED</u>	<u>TOTAL to DATE</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>
ERCS	\$1,375,000	\$ 191,449.30	\$ 1,183,550.70
TAT	244,000	16,965.90	227,034.10
USEPA-DIR	50,340	7,655.00	42,685.00
USEPA-INDR	93,025	15,585.23	77,439.77
TOTALS	\$2,407,715	\$ 231,807.43	\$ 2,175,907.57

END